

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 04478 171907Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 DHA-02 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /040 W
-----180744Z 087966 /17

R 171811Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1663
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 04478

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, SREL, PINT, UR, US, UK
SUBJ: MOSCOW CONFERENCE OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS - JUNE 77

REF: STATE 58406

1. ACCORDING TO AN OFFICER OF THE FCO EAST EUROPEAN AND SOVIET DEPARTMENT, CHIEF RABBI VISITED EESD ON MARCH 16 TO DISCUSS SUBJECT CONFERENCE. THE CHIEF RABBI SAID HE WAS UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE FROM THE SOVIETS TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE IN ONE OF THREE POSSIBLE CAPACITIES: AS A FULL, VOTING PARTICIPANT; AS AN OBSERVER WITH THE RIGHT TO SPEAK BUT NOT TO VOTE; OR AS A NON-VOTING, NON-SPEAKING "GUEST." INTERESTINGLY, THE CHIEF RABBI TOLD HIS FCO INTERLOCUTORS THAT AT LEAST ONE OF HIS "OPPOSITE NUMBERS" IN THE UNITED STATES HAD BEEN STRONGLY ADVISED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE NOT TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE.

2. FCO IS IN A DELICATE POSITION, AS IT BELIEVES ATTENDANCE AT THE CONFERENCE BY BRITISH CLERICS WOULD BE UNWISE, BUT IT MUST COUCH ITS ADVICE TO THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS IN TERMS WHICH DO NOT IMPLY INFRINGEMENT OF THEIR INDEPENDENCE. IN THE CASE OF THE CHIEF RABBI, FCO BELIEVES HE HAS NOT YET RESPONDED TO INVITATION, BUT IS
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PAGE 02 LONDON 04478 171907Z

LEANING TOWARD REFUSAL.

3. ONLY OTHER DENOMINATION WHICH FCO KNOWS HAS RECEIVED INVITATION IS CHURCH OF ENGLAND. ALTHOUGH PRESS HAS REPORTED C OF E WILL ATTEND, FCO UNDERSTANDING IS THAT RESPONSE HAS NOT YET BEEN SENT, BUT INVITATION WILL PROBABLY BE ACCEPTED. (FCO BELIEVES THAT C OF E

ACCEPTANCE MAY WELL BE CONNECTED WITH SCHEDULED, BUT AS
YET UNANNOUNCED , VISIT OF ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY TO
USSR IN SEPTEMBER 1977.)

4. FCO WILL KEEP US APPRISED OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS
REGARDING POTENTIAL BRITISH ATTENDANCE OF CONFERENCE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, RELIGIOUS GROUPS, MEETING DELEGATIONS, RELIGIOUS LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LONDON04478
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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TAGS: PFOR, SWEL, PINT, UR, US, UK
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